

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TAIPEI FOR CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: CODEL O'NEILL -- MEDIA REACTION WRAPUP

SUMMARY: UNIVERSAL EDITORIAL VIEW OF KOREAN MEDIA DURING THREE DAY CODEL VISIT WAS THAT CODEL WOULD INVESTIGATE "REALITY" OF KOREAN SITUATION AND RETURN TO U.S. AWARE OF NEED FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID AND CONTINUATION OF MUTUAL DEFENSE TIES. IN FRONT PAGE STORIES WEDNESDAY PMS AND THURSDAY PAPERS FOCUSED ON CODEL STATEMENTS AT MORNING CONFERENCE, LUNCHEON MEETING AND DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT INDICATED CONTINUING U.S. SUPPORT. LEADING PAPERS ALSO REPORTED CODEL REMARKS INDICATING DOMESTIC KOREAN EVENTS WERE INFLUENCING U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND COULD AFFECT "THE SORT OF ASSISTANCE KOREA SEEKS FROM OUR CONGRESS" (QUOTING REP. O'NEILL) END SUMMARY.

PRESS REPORTS: HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE FOLLOWED EVENING DEPARTURE OF CODEL, WITH FRONT PAGE AND BOXED STORIES QUOTING AT LENGTH FROM REP. O'NEILL'S REMARKS AT JOINT-LUNCH AND AT PRESS CONFERENCE. PAPERS HEADLINED STATEMENT THAT U.S. PLANS NO REDUCTION OF TROOPS IN KOREA AT THIS TIME, THAT RECENT NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL FOR TALKS WITH U.S. WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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"FACETIOUS" ATTEMPT TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN US AND ROK, AND THAT

"WE FEEL CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION WILL SEE THE (MILITARY MODERNIZATION PLAN) COMMITMENT THROUGH." IMPORTANT CHOSUN ILBO CARRIED FULL TEXT OF LUNCHEON REMARKS AS SPECIAL FRONT PAGE BOX STORY. IMPORTANT HANKUK ILBO CONCENTRATED ON WEDNESDAY MORNING JOINT DISCUSSION MEETING, QUOTING CODEL MEMBERS AS ASKING FOR INFORMATION ON RECENT DOMESTIC EVENTS AND SUMMARIZING DEBATE ON ROLE OF ASSEMBLIES IN DEMOCRATIC NATIONS. CHOSUN ILBO ALSO OBSERVED THAT OPPOSITION PARTY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED SESSION BUT DID NOT OFFER OPINIONS.

REPRESENTATIVE EDITORIAL COMMENTS

SINA ILBO (APRIL 15): PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY IS THAT MANY U.S. CONGRESSMEN HAVE CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO ENCOURAGING U.S. BUSINESSMEN TO MAKE INVESTMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KOREA ECONOMY. WHAT WE ARE HAPPY ABOUT IS THAT MORE AND MORE U.S. CONGRESSMEN ARE SHOWING KEEN INTEREST IN KOREA BOTH POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. WE EXPECT THAT THESE VISITING U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO EXPAND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACTUAL SITUATION CURRENTLY DEVELOPING ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR CURRENT VISIT TO SEOUL... KOREA IS NOW PLAYING A ROLE AS A FORWARD POST IN FIGHTING THE COMMUNISTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. WHAT IS EXTREMELY NECESSARY IS FOR KOREA TO SPEED ITS ECONOMIC BUILDUP SO AS TO ENSURE LASTING PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE MUTUAL DEFENSE POSTURE BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S. HAS BEEN FURTHER CONSOLIDATED ON THE BASIS OF THE BILATERAL DEFENSE TREATY. WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE BLOOD-FORGED RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED IN THE 1950S AND 1960S WILL REMAIN ALIVE IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES FOREVER.

SEOUL SHINMUN (APRIL 16): ON THIS OCCASION, WE WOULD LIKE TO URGE THE VISITING U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO FULLY AND ACCURATELY REFLECT THE ACTUAL KOREAN SITUATION IN THE COURSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION-PROPOSED MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR KOREA.

LEADING DONGA ILBO (APRIL 16): MANY ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE  
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BEEN MADE IN KOREA-U.S. COOPERATION IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FIELDS, BUT WE MUST STRESS THAT BILATERAL COOPERATION IS MORE NEEDED TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. THE WORLD IS MOVING IN THE MOOD OF DETENTE TODAY, GENERALLY SPEAKING, BUT KOREA IS AN EXCEPTION TO SUCH A TREND. WE WANT THE VISITING AMERICAN LAWMAKERS TO GRASP THE REAL SITUATION OF KOREA. IF THE VISIT OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN REMAINS A MERE COURTESY CALL, THE KOREAN PEOPLE MAY BE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED AT SUCH

A VISIT BY U.S. LAWMAKERS. IN THIS CONNECTION, ONE OF THE ISSUES  
REQUIRING THE VISITING U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S KEEN ATTENTION  
IS THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOR THE KOREAN ARMED FORCES.  
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